

denied their application for political asylum, despite credible evidence that they faced retribution from the Romanian government if they returned home. And now INS bureaucrats have denied their application under the Diversity Visa program—on a technicality. The INS has done a great injustice to this family that must be made right. If it is not, the Marts may be deported.

The Marts have made a great impact on their community and have become well-loved by their friends and neighbors. I have here signatures from over 700 people who believe the Marts should be allowed to stay in the country. What is truly remarkable about this is that these signatures were gathered by teenage girls, friends of Adelina Mart who love her so much and believe so strongly in her cause that they have made this effort to help her.

Even the Honorable Robert Jones, a federal judge who heard the Marts' case against the INS, agrees that their treatment has been unjust. In handing down his opinion, he said, "The Marts are good people. They are highly intelligent, creative people. . . . And this is where they—in my view, this is the country where they belong. . . . The person was given the lottery opportunity, was denied that opportunity on a technicality, and it just isn't right in my opinion."

America has always been a city upon a hill and a light unto the world. And throughout our history America has welcomed those who have been driven from their homelands by hunger, government tyranny, religious persecution, and poverty. We must not allow this proud legacy to die. We must not drive away those whom we should welcome with open arms. We must not allow this injustice to stand. And we must not allow the INS to deport this family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Wednesday, July 12, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 386 through 395. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 386, "yes" on rollcall vote 387, "yes" on rollcall vote 388, "yes" on rollcall vote 389, "yes" on rollcall vote 390, "yes" on rollcall vote 391, "yes" on rollcall vote 392, "yes" on rollcall vote 393, "no" on rollcall vote 394, and "yes" on rollcall vote 395.

THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES F. LEE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the impending retirement of Charles F. Lee. After a distinguished career of public service to our nation, Chuck will retire from Federal service this week.

Chuck personifies the best of our Federal public servants. Personal qualities that include

unquestioned integrity, diligence and tenacity, thoughtfulness and thoroughness, a willingness to confront difficult and complex issues and a determination to establish both the facts and the truth together with a thoroughly professional demeanor describe Chuck Lee.

Chuck currently serves as the Democratic Counsel of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Chuck's contributions are indeed noteworthy, but they are just the capstone of a remarkable career. Chuck's service to the nation includes undertaking a wide range of demanding responsibilities. Highlights of his career include serving as the Assistant Director for Veterans' Benefits Programs for the Department of Veterans Affairs; counsel to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Executive Assistant to former Assistant Secretary of Labor Preston Taylor; and, a senior staff member of the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance. As a veteran who served in Vietnam, Chuck's public service career has been dedicated to assisting his fellow veterans.

Chuck joined the Democratic staff of the House Veterans Affairs Committee early last year and has made significant contributions to the work of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee in a broad range of policy areas. We will miss his shrewd judgment, his thorough preparation and his sense of humor. Thank you, Chuck, for your high ideals and your dedication to America's veterans. We wish you only the best in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JAMES M. LINK OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Lieutenant General James M. Link is retiring after 33 years of exemplary service in the United States Army. He has served his country with dignity, honor, and integrity.

General Link was born in Columbus, Ohio, but grew up in North Carolina. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps in 1967 after completing undergraduate work at Methodist College and graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee. His military education includes the Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Methodist College and the University of Alabama, Huntsville.

A veteran of Vietnam and Desert Storm, General Link has held numerous command and staff positions leading to his current assignment as Deputy Commanding General, Army Materiel Command. Most recently, he was Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Materiel Command. Prior to that, he served as Commander, U.S. Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL. (now Aviation and Missile Command) from June 1994 to July 1997 and Deputy Commander, 21st Theater Army Area Com-

mand, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, from July 1993 to June 1994. From January 1992 to June 1993, he served as the MICOM Deputy Commanding General. He also served at MICOM from 1986 to 1989 as Director of Materiel Management Directorate in what is now the Integrated Materiel Management Center, and served as the Acting Director of this organization for eight months.

He has held various logistical and staff assignments. While Commander, 16th Corps Support Group, V Corps, Hanau, Germany, he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of VII Corps during Operations Desert Shield and Storm. He was Deputy for Training Developments, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command; Chief, Ordnance Assignment Branch, MILPERCEN; Commander, 194th Maintenance Battalion, Camp Humphreys, Korea; and Department of the Army Staff Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics. In Vietnam, he served as Company Commander and Technical Supply Officer, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

General Link's awards and decorations include: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, the Senior Army Parachute Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant General Link deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he has faithfully served for so long. I know the members of the House will join me in wishing him, his wife of 30 years, Judy and his daughter, Carey, all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING MARC AND JAY ELLIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two remarkable entrepreneurs, Marc Ellis and, his brother, Jay Ellis. Marc Ellis is the Chief Executive Officer, and Jay Ellis is the President of MyPinStripes.com, a Brooklyn based Internet business that is quickly becoming a premier Internet based valet service company. MyPinStripes.com focuses on communities that have traditionally been ignored by garment care and apparel service providers.

Marc and Jay Ellis were born to Joe and Katherine Ellis in Rockville Center, Long Island. Marc, born in August 1970, is married to Gardy Ellis and has three children: Marc 11, Kathleen and Sydney. Marc graduated from Springfield Gardens High School in Queens, New York in 1988, and earned a BA in Finance from Morehouse College in 1992. After graduating from Morehouse, Marc went on to earn two MBAs, one in Finance and the other in Marketing, from New York University Stern School of Business. Before founding MyPinStripes.com, Marc worked in corporate and investment banking with two of the largest banking institutions in the United States.

Jay Ellis, the younger of the brothers, was born in November 1972. Jay graduated from